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## NOTES

### A NEW *ASPIDOGYNE* (ORCHIDACEAE) FROM VENEZUELAN GUAYANA

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The genus *Aspidogyne* Garay is one of the recent segregates from *Erythrodes* Bl. (Garay, 1977) and comprises 27 species, widely distributed in the American tropics, primarily Brazil. They are small to medium-sized terrestrial, humicolous, to (rarely) subepiphytic herbs growing in mostly shady places of rain or cloud forests.

*Aspidogyne* belongs to the pantropical subtribe *Physurinae*, of seven genera. Among them, *Aspidogyne* can be recognized by the following combination of features: horizontal stigmata; elongate, erect column; and entire emarginate rostellum.

A revision of the *Aspidogyne* species of the Venezuelan Guayana for the orchid treatment in Steyermark's *Flora of the Venezuelan Guayana* has revealed a different identity for the species that appeared in Foldats (1970) as *Erythrodes picta* (Lyndley) Ames, a synonym of *Aspidogyne argentea* (Vell.) Garay. Foldats had already noted that the Venezuelan material cited under *E. picta* differed from the type, and suggested that it might represent a new variety. New evidence shows that the differences are sufficient for recognition of a new species, described below.

***Aspidogyne steyermarkii*** Carnevali & Foldats, sp. nov. TYPE: Venezuela. Bolívar: cabeceras del Río Chicanán, Sierra de Lema, 80 km SW de El Dorado, 500 m, 6°5'N, 62°W, 22 Aug. 1967, *Steyermark 89371* (holotype, VEN; isotype, MO).

Species haec *A. argentea* (Vell.) Garay similis, at sepalo dorsali acuto, petalis non lobulatis, calcari cylindrico, labelli lobo centrali transvere rhombico recedit.

Terrestrial herbs, 9–19 cm high. Stems basally rhizomatose, creeping at the base, aphyllous, apically ascendent to erect, 2–6-foliate. Leaves deep olive-brown with red streaks on both sides of midrib and with the same colored spots near margin above, pale lavender with pale streaks and dots below, ovate to ovate-elliptic, acute, basally rounded to

somewhat truncate, 7–28 mm long, 8–12 mm wide; petioles about 12 mm long, basally dilated and sheathing. Inflorescences of erect, laxly pauciflorous racemes, 4.5–11 cm long, the peduncle densely pubescent. Flowers resupinate, small, with white tepals and labellum. Tepals uninervate, subfleshy. Dorsal sepal elliptic, acute, 4 mm long, 1.2 mm wide; lateral sepals ovate-elliptic, subacute, basally attenuate, somewhat oblique, 5 mm long, 2 mm wide; petals narrowly obovate-elliptic, acute, 3.8 mm long, 1.1 mm wide. Labellum elliptic in overall outline, 5.1 mm long, 2.7 mm wide, contracted above its apical third, obovate below the contraction, dilated in a transversely rhombic terminal lobe above, 0.8 mm long, 1.2 mm wide, subacute. Spur cylindrical, acute, slightly arched, 5.2 mm long, 0.7 mm thick. Column clavate, 3 mm long; rostellum aristate, acute.

This new species belongs in sect. *Argenteae* Garay. It is similar to *Aspidogyne argentea* (Vell.) Garay but differs by having acute (vs. rounded or obtuse) dorsal sepals, cylindrical (vs. fusiform) spur, petals apically not lobulate, and the labellum with a transversely rhombic, subacute (vs. transversely obreniform, truncate, apiculate) apical lobe.

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#### LITERATURE CITED

- FOLDATS, E. 1970. *Erythrodes*. Orchidaceae. In: T. Lasser (editor), *Flora de Venezuela* 15(1): 263–267.  
GARAY, L. A. 1977. Systematics of the *Physurinae* (Orchidaceae) in the New World. *Bradea* 2(28): 191–208.

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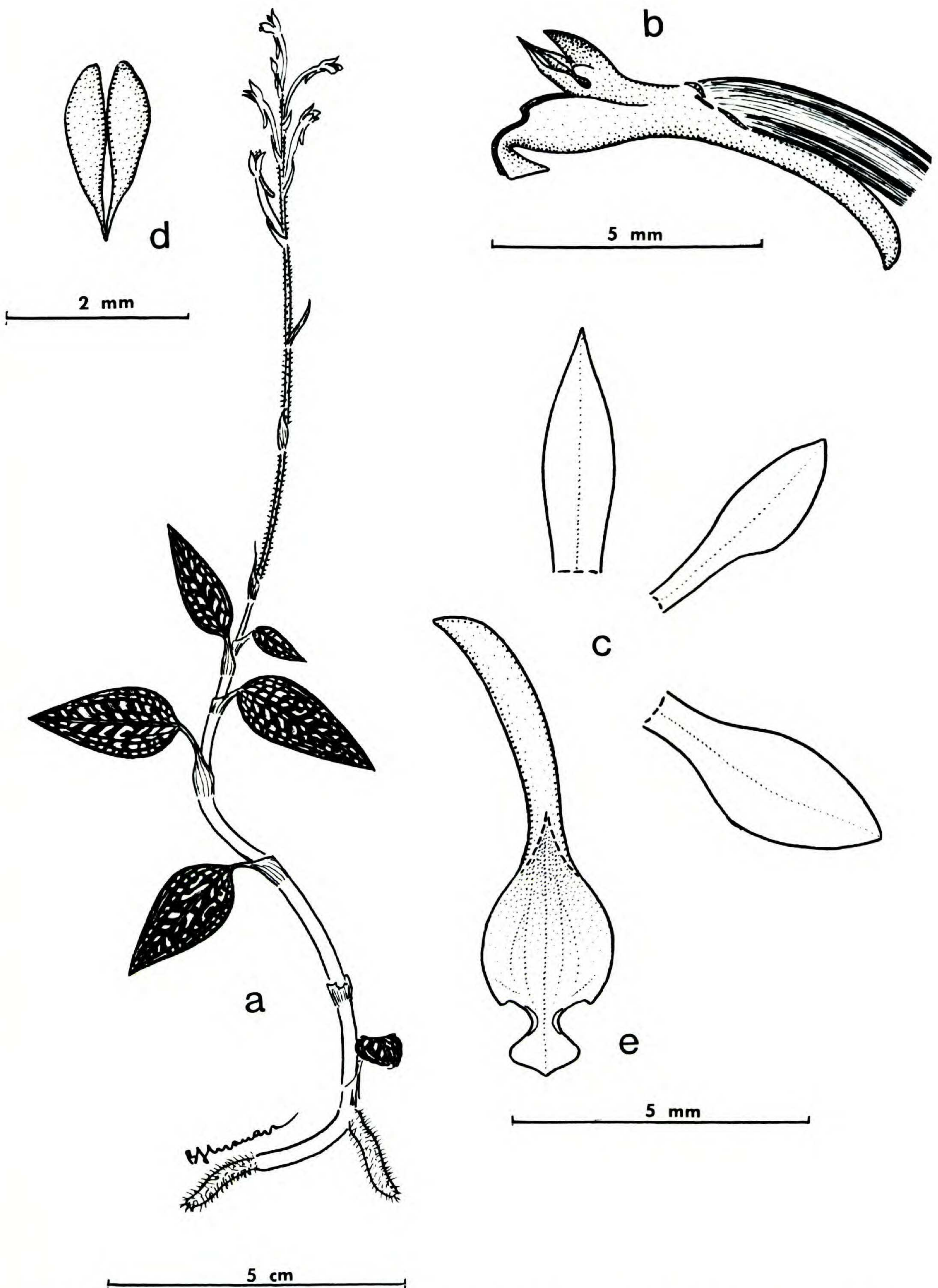


FIGURE 1. *Aspidogyne steyermarkii*. — a. Flowering habit. — b. Lateral view of labellum and column. — c. Perianth segments and labellum flattened. — d. Pollinia. — e. Labellum.